



Photo: Aaron Lemen

MEET THE AUTHOR:

Nikki Grimes

Tues, May 9, 6 pm, POW, All Ages

New York Times bestselling author Nikki Grimes will visit Kalamazoo schools and KPL this spring to share about her writing and career with Kalamazoo kids, teens, and families. Book sale and signing provided by Bookbug.

Grimes won the Wilder Award at the Youth Media Awards in 2017, the 2016 Virginia Hamilton Literary Award, and the 2006 NCTE Award for Excellence in Poetry for Children.

Her distinguished works include ALA Notable book *What is Goodbye?*, Coretta Scott King Award winner *Bronx Masquerade*, and Coretta Scott King Author Honor books *Jazmin's Notebook*, *Talkin' About Bessie*, *Dark Sons*, *The Road to Paris*, and *Words with Wings*. Creator of the popular Meet Danitra Brown, Ms. Grimes lives in Corona, California.

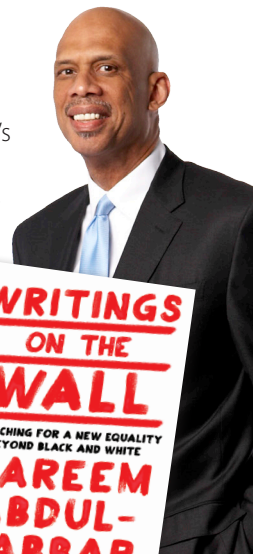
What if our community read the same book at the same time?

That was the question we posed to this community back in 2003 when Reading Together was launched as part of Kalamazoo Community Foundation's Better Together initiative. Since then, through 15 years of shared experiences, we have had opportunities to delve into such compelling themes as poverty, race, the Vietnam War, autism, Japanese internment camps, immigration, the food movement, the Great Lakes and more.

Kalamazoo Public Library is thrilled and grateful to be celebrating our 15th anniversary of Reading Together with the very special appearance on March 14, 2017 by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. We believe his words in *Writings on the Wall*—about so many issues that divide us—will help us come together as a community.

For more information, and to RSVP for the Meet the Author event, visit readingtogether.us. A full event list can also be found on page 4.

2017
Reading
Together
15th Anniversary



MEET THE AUTHOR:

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Tues, March 14, 2017, 7 pm, Miller Auditorium

Basketball legend and cultural commentator Kareem Abdul-Jabbar will discuss his latest book, *Writings on the Wall*. Together, we will explore the heart of the issues that affect Americans today, from race and economic inequality to the business of sports and the media's influence on society.

Join us as we welcome Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to Kalamazoo for this epic Reading Together event.

NO TICKET REQUIRED.

Books will be available for purchase from Michigan News Agency during the event. A book signing will immediately follow the program.

Please note that Mr. Abdul-Jabbar will only be signing copies of his book. Please don't bring sports memorabilia, basketballs or jerseys.

19th Annual Party in the Park

Wed, May 31, 10 am, Bronson Park

Calling all childcare providers, teachers and parents! You and your preschool children will enjoy this very special story hour featuring:

- A book for each child
- Lots of wonderful stories
- Costumed characters
- Healthy snacks and juice

This is a FREE event! Bring a blanket to sit on. Portable toilets will be available at the park. Weather cancellations may apply.

R.S.V.P. 553-7873 or online at kpl.gov/party by Friday, May 26



One cannot have too
many Friends!

Details on page 12.

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MARCH • APRIL • MAY • 2017

BOOKS

Reading Together – *Writings on the Wall* Book Discussion

Mon, March 6, 6 pm, OSH

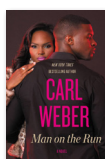
Tues, March 7, 6 pm, POW

Wed, March 22, 6:30 pm, WSQ

R Urban Fiction Book Discussion Group

Tuesdays, March 28, April
25, May 30, 6 pm, POW

Join the Powell Book Discussion Group as we share our insights and reviews on works by various authors. Titles being discussed this spring include *Man on the Run* by Carl Weber, *Guarding Secrets* by Pat Tucker, and *The Streets Have No King* by JaQuavis Coleman. Books can be picked up at the Powell Branch. Please register.



Alchemy

Tues, May 9, 6:30 pm, CEN

The year-and-a-half-long Alchemy Initiative wraps up with a reading by participants arranged by Friends of Poetry. Alchemy is not a science; it's about the changes within and without. Features many well-known area writers.

R Registration required. Call location listed or register online at kpl.gov starting 30 days before event.

MUSIC



GLAMA Acoustic Slow Jam

Tues, March 14, 7 pm, CEN

We invite you to join the Great Lakes Acoustic Music Association for a fun jam based on simple chord progressions and slow to medium tempo tunes. All acoustic stringed instruments welcome! Basic jamming tips are included.

GLAMA Community Sing

Tues, March 21, 7 pm, CEN

Tues, April 18, 7 pm, CEN

Tues, May 16, 7 pm, CEN

Come and sing along with folksinger and songwriter Patricia Pettinga and her GLAMA Community Sing co-hosts. Lyric sheets are provided.

HISTORY & GENEALOGY

SHARE-OUT on Race

Sat, March 25, 9:30 am-4:30 pm, CEN

RACE. The topic is in the news, social media, and on our minds. But what does the conversation look like in Kalamazoo?

Now is your opportunity to share your thoughts on race in the Kalamazoo community. The Society for History and Racial Equity (SHARE), WMUK, and the Kalamazoo Public Library are joining forces to create a unique opportunity for community members to share their stories. How do we experience race in Kalamazoo? What have we been through? What do we hope and what do we want to change? Help us put our finger on the pulse of the race conversation in Kalamazoo!

Participants will have half an hour to speak with an interviewer regarding race. Interviews will be recorded and available to view online. Space is very limited so register now at the Local History desk at 269-553-7808.



How to Write Your Own Obituary (or Anyone Else's)

Thurs, April 27, 7 pm, CEN

Obituaries should honor the past, preserve it for the future, and give comfort in the present—but they're tough to write at the last minute. Learn the ingredients that go into a good obituary, discuss do's and don'ts, and get a start on one for yourself that says what you would like to say. Program presented by Ruth Wilson.

Intro to Genealogy

Thurs, May 11, 7 pm, CEN

Learn how to start compiling your family tree through databases like Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest, KPL's Index to Local Publications, plus important print sources, major collections, and more.

LEGAL

R Ask a Lawyer

For appointment information
call the Law Library, 553-7920

Free legal clinics for persons of low-to-moderate income with Bar Association lawyers. Get help with most areas of civil law, including landlord-tenant problems, divorce, and family law. For a free 20-minute appointment, call 553-7920. You may make only one appointment per four months. Clinics do not include follow-up. Further consultation must be negotiated with an individual attorney.

R Free Tax Preparation

Thurs, March 9, 10 am-2 pm, CEN

Thurs, March 16, 11 am-4 pm, EAS

Thurs, April 13, 10 am-2 pm, CEN

Get your income taxes prepared and e-filed for free by IRS-certified community volunteers, if your household income was under \$54,000 in 2016. Direct deposit available at all locations. Dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-563-5432 to make appointment and for more information.



TECH

THE HUB WORKSHOP:

Photoshop Demonstration

Thursdays, April 13 & May 11, 6 pm,
CEN – The Hub

Learn the fundamentals of Adobe Photoshop CC. This entry-level workshop will provide beginners with a greater understanding of what Adobe Photoshop can do for you.

THE HUB WORKSHOP:

Photo Restoration

Thursdays, April 27 & May 25, 6 pm,
CEN – The Hub

Learn how to edit your photos using Adobe Photoshop CC tools, such as masking, healing brush and more! This entry-level workshop will provide beginners the tools they need to restore or edit their photos.

& MORE

R Matter of Balance

Thursdays, March 2 - April 20,
1:30 pm, OSH

Many older adults experience a fear of falling. People who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. This 8-week workshop is a program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Presented by Kalamazoo County Area Agency on Aging, IIIA. Refreshments. Registration required, call 553-7992.

Middle Eastern Cooking

Tues, April 25, 6 pm, OSH

Join Shawarma King owner and head chef Nidal Awad as he prepares healthy dishes from the Middle East.

Bellydance Kalamazoo

Wed, April 26, 6:30 pm, WSQ

Immerse yourself in the movements, culture, and history of Middle Eastern dance with Sabrina, owner and artistic director of Bellydance Kalamazoo.

Creating a Woodland Garden

Mon, May 1, 6 pm, EAS

Are you lamenting because none of your favorite flowers will grow in that particular shady spot, or because your lawn has become more of a moss garden under that huge tree? Your cause for suffering can just as easily be reason to celebrate and that eyesore could become your all-time favorite type of garden. Master Gardener Jill Ongley will show you how to incorporate native and non-native plants to create a layered tapestry and a lush and vibrant woodland garden to enjoy.

Hamilton Throwdown, All Ages

Sat, May 6, 2-4 pm, CEN

Don't throw away your shot to show you're always in the room where it happens. Do you have what it takes to win the Hamilton Trivia and Lyric Challenges? Our Hamilton Party was so popular we're bringing it back with tougher trivia and even more singing. Colonial era themed refreshments, costume contest, Hamilton crafts, trivia, singing and more! Prizes for top competitors. All ages welcome.

Get to Know Your Muslim Neighbors

Mon, May 15, 6 pm, OSH

Learn about Muslims in our community and their culture in this interactive program. Drop in and enjoy tea and international delicacies, get a henna design, speak one-on-one with Muslim members of our community and ask questions about Islam and its belief system. This event is co-sponsored by the Kalamazoo Islamic Center.

Indian Dance with Dolly

Mon, May 22, 6 pm, EAS

Experience the pleasure, power, and art of movement with Dolly! She will teach and perform freestyle dances of India for fun, fitness, and special occasions.

R Hidden Figures in Kalamazoo

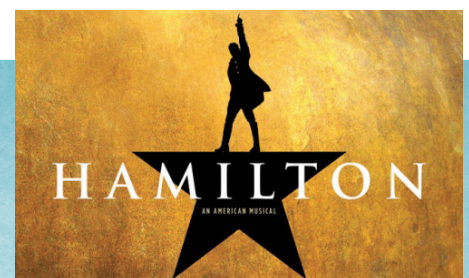
Tues, May 23, 6 pm, POW

Meet for an intelligent, engaging, and honest discussion on issues surrounding the topic of race, gender, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), inspired by the book *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly. We'll be joined by female scientists, engineers, and mathematicians from southwest Michigan. Copies of the book can be picked up at the Powell Branch. Please register.

Viet Cuisine at the Square

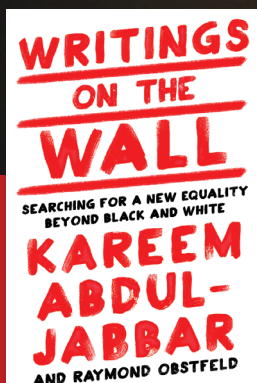
Wed, May 24, 6:30 pm, WSQ

Learn how to make some Vietnamese food with Reggie Kaur and Nancy Tien, chefs of Kalamazoo's new Vietnamese restaurant, Pho on the Block.



2017
**Reading
Together**
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PHOTO CREDIT: DAN WINTERS, THE NEW YORK TIMES



About *Writings on the Wall*

In his newest book, *Writings on the Wall*, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar explores the way America today is sharply divided along many cultural lines and suggests how we can bridge the gaps. He uses his unique blend of erudition and authentic experience in these all-new essays on

challenges faced by future generations of Americans, the country's seemingly irreconcilable partisan warfare, and his own experiences as an athlete, African American, and Muslim.

"The polarization of American society along partisan lines without any regard for rational discussion is worse than it's ever been in my lifetime. The America envisioned by our founders was one of rational people with respect for other points of view and an openness to be persuaded by facts and logic. I try to bring that attitude back in my book."

Writings on the Wall: Overview and Discussion

Come together for reflection and discussion with friends, neighbors, and/or strangers who have read *Writings on the Wall*.

Mon, March 6, 6 pm, OSH

Tues, March 7, 6 pm, POW

Wed, March 15, 2 pm, Kalamazoo
Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St.

Tues, March 21, 10:30 am, Portage
District Library, 300 Library Lane

Wed, March 22, 6:30 pm, WSQ

EVENTS

All events are FREE and open to the public. A detailed list of events and ways to participate can be found at readingtogether.us.

Meet the Author: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Tues, March 14, 7 pm,
Miller Auditorium
2200 Auditorium Drive,
Kalamazoo

Details on cover.

Dig Deeper

Engage in discussion and analyze Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's thoughts about the various topics covered in *Writings on the Wall*.

Gender:

The View From the Front Yard

Mon, Feb 27, 7 pm

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan,
601 W. Maple St.

News Media:

I Read the News Today, Oh Boy

Wed, March 1, 7 pm

MLive Hub, 306 S. Kalamazoo Mall

Seniors:

The Aging of Aquarius

Thurs, March 9, 4 pm

Kalamazoo County Area Agency
on Aging, 3299 Gull Rd.

American Politics:

The Broom of the System

Mon, March 13, 7:30 pm

Heritage Hall, WMU, 601 Oakland Dr.

Class Struggle:

Another Day in Paradise

Thurs, March 16, 7 pm

KVCC Anna Whitten Hall,
202 N. Rose St, Room 128

Racism:

Make Me Wanna Holler

Tues, March 21, 7 pm

Lincoln International Studies School,
912 N. Burdick St.

Religion:

Worship at Your Own Risk

Thurs, March 23, 7 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 321 W. South St.

Sports:

Are You Not Entertained?

Mon, March 27, 6:30 pm

Douglass Community Assoc.,
1000 W. Paterson St.

Dear Generation Z:

Unsolicited Advice for America's Youth

Tues, March 28, 7 pm

Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership,
205 Monroe St.

Visit KPL.gov for a complete list of supporting partners and sponsors.

Tween & Teen events

MARCH • APRIL • MAY • 2017

(more events on pages 6-7)

MAKER

Lego One-Scoop Challenge, Grades 5-12

Saturdays, February 25,
March 25, April 22, 2-3pm,
CEN Teen Area

The Challenge: create greatness with a single scoop! Everyone will get one scoop of LEGOs.

Maker Monday, Grades 5-12 Mondays, March 27, April 24, May 22, 4:30-5:30 pm, CEN

Tinker, make, create, and explore @ the library. Each month will feature different ideas and materials. Focus on the process (not the product) and make whatever you want!

March	Soap Making
April	Gift Making
May	Beeswax sheet "sushi" making

R Beginning Filmmaking, Grades 5-12 Thurs, May 18, 4:30 pm, OSH

Get started in filmmaking with information from local film expert, Louis Barrett. Please register.

POETRY

Leading Through Poetry with Speak It Forward

Tuesdays, March 14 & 28,
4:30-5:30 pm, CEN

Join the mentors of Speak It Forward Inc. as they facilitate a bi-monthly writing workshop, empowering youth at KPL. We'll craft new poems and develop our works together through the group. These workshops will lead up to an April 2017 Art Hop event where we will showcase the youth's poetry. No poetry expertise necessary! Supplies provided.

Writings on the Wall: a Teen Poetry Showcase presented by Speak It Forward

Fri, April 7, 5 pm, CEN

"Writings on the Wall," a poetry showcase, will highlight the voices of the individuals participating in our after-school workshop, Leading Through Poetry. Along with the participants, Speak It Forward's own Jesselyn Leach will be performing, as well as Gabriel Giron and Kirk Latimer (also known as Kinetic Affect). So come out and support your local poets, and come back a few days later to read their writings on the wall.



Attention middle school students!

There's a **Battle of the Books** program just for **YOU**

Sat, April 15, 12-3 pm, CEN

Teen Services is excited to announce the 3rd annual **Three Book Battle**, where teams of three 6th-8th graders compete in three rounds of questions from three books for the Three Book Battle championship!

Team sets of books (to keep!) are available for pickup at Central Teen Area and Oshtemo Library. To register and for more info, go to kpl.gov/tbb.

BOOKS

MARCH BOOK MADNESS

Grades 5-12

March 1-31, Open Hours, CEN Teen Area

We'll start with a Sweet 16 of favorite titles and narrow it down through the Elite 8, the Final 4 and on to the best book for teens! Weekly matches will be posted in the library and on social media (Facebook and Instagram) where teens can "like" their favorites to move them through the bracket. Only 1 book will be left standing on March 31! Teens who submit 5 votes or more will be entered to win a set of 5 top books of their choice!

Teen Book Club, Grades 5-12

Thursdays, March 9 & April 13,
4:30-5:30 pm, POW

Read and discuss books by visiting author Nikki Grimes. Get your books signed when Nikki visits KPL May 9!

R Pizza & Pages

Your free-to-keep copy of the book is available up to 1 month ahead at the library location. Read it and come back to talk about it over pizza! Please register.

Wed, April 19, 4:30 pm, OSH

Shadowshaper by Daniel Jose Older

Mon, April 24, 6 pm, EAS

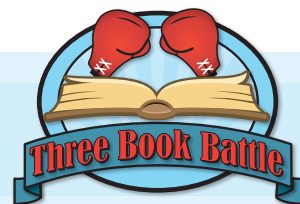
Bronx Masquerade by KPL Visiting Author, Nikki Grimes

Thurs, May 4, 4:30 pm, CEN

Words With Wings, by Nikki Grimes

Mon, May 15, 4:30 pm, CEN

Everything, Everything, by Nicola Yoon
(movie release: May 19)



2017 Titles:

Bronx Masquerade
by Nikki Grimes

The War That Saved My Life
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

*The Inquisitor's Tale:
Or The Three Magical
Children and Their Holy Dog*
by Adam Gidwitz



FILM

14th Annual Teen Filmmaker Festival, Grades 5-12

Sat, March 4, Noon, Chenery Auditorium

Attention film lovers! View the finalist films entered in our 14th Annual Teen Film Fest. Vote for your favorites from local tweens and teens. Presented in partnership with the North by Midwest Film Festival in Kalamazoo, March 3-4, 2017. Sponsored by KPL, the KIA, PMN, and Campaign Pictures.

Young Filmmaker Panel, Grades 5-12

Sat, March 4, 10 am, KVCC Center for New Media

Are you interested in making films as a hobby or career? Hear more about how to get started, the equipment and experience you need, and how to make the most of every film opportunity. Presented by local film experts and filmmakers, including past participants in KPL's Teen Film Fest.

Movie & Snacks, Grades 7-12

Guardians of the Galaxy, PG-13, Sat, April 8, 2-4 pm, CEN

A group of intergalactic criminals are forced to work together to stop a fanatical warrior from taking control of the universe. Watch the team come together in the first film before the sequel comes out in May. All participants will have a chance to answer trivia and win movie passes to the new film.



GEEK OUT!

J-Pop Club, Teens Only

Mondays, March 20, April 17, May 15, 4-5 pm, CEN

Enjoy the latest and coolest stuff straight from Japan. If you love anime, manga and Japanese food and pop culture, then you'll love this club. Pocky and sushi samples, monthly!

Pop Culture

Trivia, Grades 5-12

May 1-31, Open Hours, CEN Teen Area, EAS, POW, WSQ

Throwdown with other pop culture superfans! Answer the most questions correctly throughout the month of May and win free movie passes to see your favorite summer blockbusters! New questions posted daily in the Teen Area at Central. See if you can get your name in first place on the leaderboard.



TECH

Tech Tuesday, Grades 5-12

March 7, April 4, May 2, 4:30-5:30 pm, CEN

March	Virtual Reality with Nova VR
April	Tech-Take Apart
May	Paper Circuit greeting cards

® Pi Day, Grades 5-12

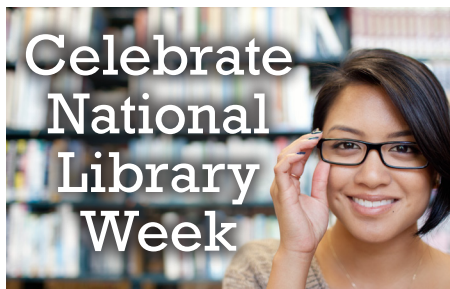
Tues, March 14, 4:30-5:30 pm, CEN, EAS, POW

Celebrate Pi day with math challenges, a demo of the Raspberry Pi, and actual pie, pie. Please register.

Nova VR, Grades 5-12

Sat, April 8 & May 20, 2-4 pm, CEN

Experience Virtual Reality with Kalamazoo's own VR Arcade, Nova VR. Drop in and play!



Celebrate National Library Week

APRIL 9-15, 2017

Visit your library

Head to your public, school or academic library during National Library Week to see what's new and take part in the celebration. Libraries across the country are participating.

Show your support for libraries on social media

Follow **I Love Libraries** on Facebook and Twitter and the hashtags **#NationalLibraryWeek** and **#LibrariesTransform** to join the celebration on social media.

& MORE

R Teen Focus Group, Grades 7-12

Sat, February 25, 10:30 am, CEN

Help us out by giving us your ideas and input on the redesign of the Teen Space at Central. Refreshments served. Participants eligible to win prizes. Please register.

#TAB, Grades 7-12

Mondays, March 13, April 10, May 8, 4:30 pm, CEN & OSH

Attention Teens! Are you looking for ways to give back to your library and your community while having fun at the same time? Join the new, improved Teen Advisory Board (#TAB) and volunteer for library programs, help with events, contribute to library social media, and more! #TAB members also get special perks, rewards, and opportunities! Want to know more? Join #TAB today!

Teen Talent Show, Grades 5-12

Tues, April 4, 5:30-7 pm, POW

If you, your dance partner, group or band would like to perform, recite poetry, sing, dance or can do magic, join us for a friendly spring break competition. Perform your favorite act or just have fun. We will have judges, snacks and prizes. Performers registration for groups and individuals start March 21. Drop in at Powell and sign up and name your talent.



Everything you need to know is **@kpl.gov**



College Readiness, Grades 9-12

College prep with Karen Williams from College Stride.

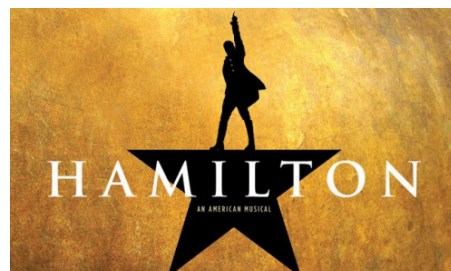
Resumes:

Monday, April 24, 6-7 pm, CEN

Application Essays:

Monday, May 22, 6-7 pm, CEN

R Registration required. Call location listed or register online at **kpl.gov** starting 30 days before event.



Hamilton Throwdown, All Ages

Sat, May 6, 2-4 pm, CEN

Don't throw away your shot to show you're always in the room where it happens. Do you have what it takes to win the Hamilton Trivia and Lyric Challenges?

Our Hamilton Party was so popular we're bringing it back with tougher trivia and even more singing.

Colonial era themed refreshments, costume contest, Hamilton crafts, trivia, singing and more! All ages welcome.

GAMING

Gaming Tournaments, Grades 5-12

Compete against your friends in an afternoon of tournament game play! We'll have rotating tournaments on Super Smash Bros., Mario Kart, and Pokken Tournament and more, with prizes for top finishers!

Monthly Game Central

Wednesdays, March 29, April 26, May 24, 4:30-5:30 pm, CEN

Other events:

Wed, April 5, 2-4 pm, CEN

Thurs, April 6, 4:30-5:30 pm, EAS

Tues, April 25, 4:30-5:30 pm, WSQ

BOOK NOOK

R Bookworms, Grades 3-5

**Tuesdays, March 14, April 11,
May 9, 4:30 pm, OSH**

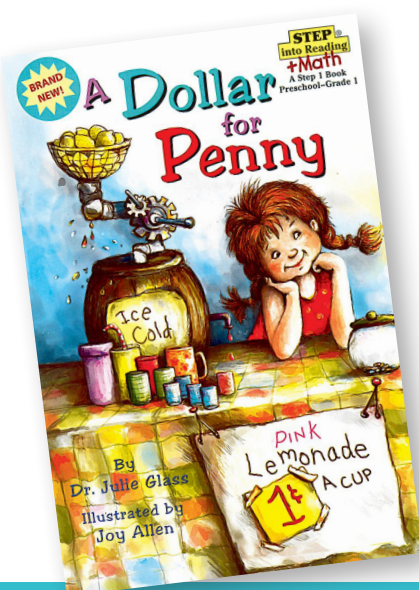
**Thursdays, March 23, April 27,
May 25, 4:30 pm, CEN**

A book club for kids and their grown-ups. In March, we will read *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher* by Bruce Coville. In April, we will read *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* by Louis Sachar. In May, we will read *Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel* by Nikki Grimes. Registration required.

Money Smart Kids, Read! Ages 3-5

Tues, April 25, 10 am, CEN

Enjoy a special reading of *A Dollar for Penny* with related activities during Money Smart Kids Week. Preschoolers will receive a free copy of the book to take home, while supplies last.



MUSIC & THEATRE

R Musical Storybooks, They All Saw A Cat, Ages 3-6

Wed, March 1, 9:30 and 10:30 am, CEN

Thurs, March 2, 10:30 am, POW

Based on Brendan Wenzel's *They All Saw A Cat*, Musical Storybooks features a storytime, craft, and child-friendly performance by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's string quartet. Groups welcome. Registration required.



Musical Storytime, Family

**Mondays, March 13, April 10, May 8,
6:30 pm OSH**

**Mondays, March 27, April 24, May 15,
6:30 pm CEN**

Favorite songs, stories and special guests.

Crybaby Concert with Fontana Chamber Arts, Birth-5

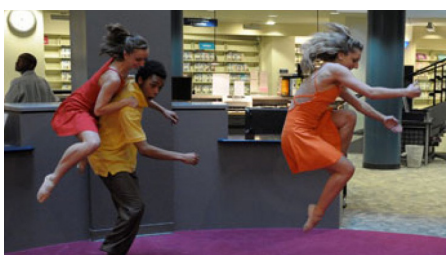
Sat, March 18, 11 am, OSH

Preschool children and their caregivers enjoy a performance of beautiful music in an open and flexible environment with room to move, stroller parking, and nutritious snacks. Siblings welcome.

Western Dance Project, Family

Mon, April 3, 11 am, CEN

Repertoire ranging from contemporary ballet to hip hop performed by Western Dance Project, the touring ensemble for WMU's Department of Dance.



T Bach in Jammies, Family

**Mon, May 8,
6:30 pm, CEN**

**Tues, May 9,
6:30 pm, OSH**

Soprano Jessica Louise Coe accompanied by pianist Carl Witt will send you to the moon and back with this lovely all-ages family evening event. Your favorite bedtime stories paired with beautiful music and lullabies. Come in your jammies and snuggle down for an evening of awe and wonder. FREE ticket required, contact the library branch for ticket information.



R KSO Peter and the Wolf, All Ages

**Sat, May 13, 10:30 am
& Noon, CEN**



Explore animals through music! A well-loved family classic comes to life as it is performed by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's Woodwind Quintet. Enjoy an instrument petting zoo, meet the musicians, and create a craft based on the movements of these lively animals. This concert is part of the KSO Family Fun Chamber Series. Registration required.

MOVE!

R Tumble Toddlers, Ages 1-2

**Saturdays, March 11, April 8,
May 20, 10:30 am, CEN**

Toddlers and caregivers enjoy this free movement experience in a big open space. Registration required.

R Martial Arts with Charles Parker, Ages 7-11

**Tues, April 4, 2 pm (ages 7-10)
and 3 pm (ages 11-18), POW**

Learn self-defense techniques with Charles Parker, 3rd degree Judo instructor. Registration required.

AMAZING ANIMALS

R Reading with Tucker, Family

Thursdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30,
4-5:30 pm, OSH

Thursdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27,
4-5:30 pm, WSQ

Thursdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25,
4-5:30 pm, EAS

Enjoy a “pawsitive” reading experience with Tucker, the friendly golden retriever. Call location to register.

T Avian Wonders, All Ages

Mon, April 3, 2 pm, EAS

Denise Heath’s colorful parrots and fine feathered friends will entertain, educate, and amaze. FREE ticket required. Contact the Eastwood branch for ticket information.

R 4-H Bunny Hop, Family

Tues, April 4, 2 pm, WSQ

Small animal care featuring live bunnies, their care, and upkeep. Registration required.

T Binder Park

Zoomobile, All Ages

Wed, April 5, 2 pm, POW

Experience the wonders of nature first hand with live animals and amazing animal artifacts. FREE ticket required. Contact the Alma Powell branch for ticket information.

T Rockin’ Rovers, All Ages

Sat, April 8, 11 am, OSH

The dancing dogs from the West Michigan Canine Connection will perform a freestyle routine. FREE ticket required. Contact the Oshtemo branch for ticket information.

STEM

LEGO at the Library, Family

Saturdays, March 4, April 1, May 6,
10:30 am, OSH

Wednesdays, March 8, April 12, May
10, 6:30 pm, WSQ

Thursdays, March 9, April 13, May 18,
4:30 pm, EAS

Saturdays, March 18, April 15, May 20,
10:30 am, CEN

Wednesdays, March 22, April 12,
May 17, 4:30 pm POW

Build, create, and imagine with other LEGO fans. Bricks provided, from Duplo to expert builder.



R Little Scientists, Ages 3-6

Mondays, March 6 & April 10,
10:30 am, CEN

Stories and science for preschoolers and a caregiver. Registration required. Topics posted on kpl.gov.

M Maker Mondays, Ages 6-11

Mondays, March 20 & May 15,
4:30 pm, CEN

Drop in for tinkering, creating, and exploring – a different project each time.



Ozobots, Ages 6-11

Tues, March 28, 4:30 pm, WSQ

Explore computer-programming concepts with color-coded mini robots. Hands-on STEM fun!

R Rockin’ Rollercoasters, Ages 8-11

Tues, April 4, 2 pm, OSH

Explore speed, mass, g-force, and energy by cooperatively building and testing a large-scale roller coaster at this exciting Air Zoo Science-on-the-Go program. Space is limited, registration required.

R Slime Works, Ages 8-11

Wed, April 5, 2 pm, CEN

Test a variety of “slime” substances and learn how different combinations of chemicals can result in ooze, gooey, and squirmly slime at this exciting Air Zoo Science-on-the-Go program. Space is limited, registration required.

Chemical Kim, Ages 6-11

Thurs, April 6, 10:30 am, EAS

A super science show for kids!

R Registration required. Call location listed or register online starting 30 days before event.

T Space limited; ticket required. Pick up free ticket at host location starting one week before event; one ticket per person. Call location with any questions.

M Maker Program



PARTY IN THE PARK

May 31, 10 am, Bronson Park
More details on page 11



STAY & PLAY

Toddler Talk, Ages 1-3

Mondays, 10:15 am, OSH

March 6, 13, 20, 27

April 3, 10, 17, 24

May 1, 8, 15, 22

Toddlers play while adults share the joys and challenges of parenting 1-3 year-olds. Carolyn Call, RN, facilitator.



Baby Talk, Up to Age 1 Year

Mondays, 2:30 pm, OSH

March 6, 13, 20, 27

April 3, 10, 17, 24

May 1, 8, 15, 22

Talk about the care of babies up to one year of age with other parents. Carolyn Call, RN, facilitator.

R 1-2-3 Play with Me, Ages 1-3

**Wednesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29,
10:30 am, CEN**

**Wednesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26,
10:30 am, OSH**

**Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24,
10:30 am, CEN**

Spend time together, play, make friends, and talk one-on-one with specialists on child development during this enjoyable one-month workshop. For children 1 to 3 years and their parents and caregivers. Registration required. Infant and preschool siblings may attend with registered toddler.

Play and Learn, Ages 1-5

Mondays, 5:30 pm-7 pm, EAS

Thursdays, 10:30 am-Noon, EAS, WSQ

Fridays, 10:30 am-Noon, POW

Come to the Story Place and engage in play for early learning. Drop in during the posted open times. For children ages 1 to 5 with caregiver, siblings welcomed.

STORYTIMES

Adult caregiver must accompany babies and toddlers. Siblings may attend as guests.

Preschool Storytime, Ages 3-5

Tuesdays, March 7, 14, 21, 28,

10:30 am, CEN

Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30,

10:30 am, CEN

Engage in exciting stories, songs, and activities.

Toddler Storytime, Ages 2-3

Tuesdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25,

10:30 am, CEN

A storytime for toddlers and caregivers to share reading, writing, singing, playing and talking.

R Tablet Tales, Ages 3-5

Thursdays, March 9 & April 6,

10:30 am, CEN

Preschoolers and caregivers explore interactive and engaging stories using tablet technology in a positive manner. Registration required.

Baby Lapsit, Birth-Pre-walkers

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29,

10:15 am, OSH

Wednesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26,

10 am, CEN

Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24,

10:15 am, OSH

Songs, bounces, and rhymes for babies from birth to walking with their caregivers. Siblings welcome.



Baby Steps, Walkers-24 Months

**Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29,
11 am, OSH**

**Wednesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26,
10:30 am, CEN**

**Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24,
11 am, OSH**

Rhymes, songs, and books for little ones from walking to 24 months and their caregivers. Siblings welcome.

Family Storytime, Family

Stories, activities and special guests designed for birth-5 and their families.

Thursdays, 10:30 am, OSH

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

April 6, 13, 20, 27

May 4, 11, 18, 25

Fridays, 10:30 am, CEN

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

April 7, 14, 21, 28

May 5, 12, 19, 26

Cuentos y Canciones, Family

**Saturdays, March 18, April 29, May 20,
10:30 am, WSQ**

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage with bilingual stories and songs.

CEN (Central Library) **553-7800**

EAS (Eastwood) **553-7810**

OSH (Oshtemo) **553-7980**

POW (Alma Powell) **553-7960**

WSQ (Washington Square) . **553-7970**

ARTS & CRAFTS

Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss! Family

Thurs, March 2, open hours, OSH

Drop in and celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with crafts inspired by his wonderful stories.

St. Patrick's Day, Ages 5-11

Thurs, March 16, 4:30 pm, EAS

Drop in and make some St. Patrick's Day inspired crafts. All supplies provided.

R Egg-nificent Creation, Ages 6-11

Mon, April 10, 4:30 pm, EAS

Tues, April 11, 4:30 pm, POW

Wed, April 12, 4:30 pm, OSH

Thurs, April 13, 4:30 pm, CEN

Decorate your very own holiday egg with paints, feathers, gemstones, and more. Eggs and decorations will be provided. Registration required.

Earth Day Crafternoon, Ages 6-11

Mon, April 17, 4:30 pm, WSQ

Tues, April 18, 4:30 pm, CEN

Wed, April 19, 4:30 pm, POW

Thurs, April 20, 4:30 pm, EAS

Drop in to recycle and repurpose all kinds of stuff into creative art in observance of Earth Day.

R Money Smart Kids, Save! Ages 6-11

Mon, April 24, 4:30 pm, CEN, EAS, OSH

Wed, April 26, 4:30 pm, POW

Decorate your very own ceramic bank and learn great ways to save during Money Smart Week. All materials will be provided. Registration required.



Mother's Day Gift Making, Ages 6-11

Thurs, May 11, 4:30 pm,
EAS & OSH

Make a very special gift for that very special person, all materials provided.

& MORE



First Saturday @KPL, Family Saturdays, March 4, April 1, May 6, 2-3:30 pm, CEN

Take your family to the library the first Saturday of each

month! Get your library card or pick out some books to check out. Enjoy stories, activities, special guests, and door prizes. Something different each month! First Saturday is a partnership program for KPL and Kalamazoo Public Schools.

March Host: Kalamazoo Public Schools

April Host: Great Start Collaborative
Parents Coalition

May Host: Kalamazoo Literacy Council

Mommy & Me for Teen Moms, Birth-5

Tues, April 11, 6 pm, POW

Come and engage in early learning fun with songs, puppets, finger plays, bubbles and more. Teen moms will receive a free early learning gift bag while supplies last.

Dia de los Niños Celebration, Family

Sat, April 29

Join us in celebrating
"Diversity in Action" with:

Cuentos y Canciones, 10:30 am, WSQ

Small Sounds, 11 am, OSH

Dances of India, 2 pm, OSH

Small Sounds, 3 pm, CEN



R Registration required. Call location listed or register online starting 30 days before event.

Ramadan Kareem, Family

Wed, May 3, 4:30 pm, OSH

Learn about Ramadan, make a craft, and try some snacks used to break the fast.

Washington Square Branch Library Spring Celebration, All Ages

Wed, May 17, 5:30-7 pm, WSQ

Celebrate the start of spring and warmer weather with music, a visit from Ghostbusters Kalamazoo, a plant exchange, yummy pizza and tamales, crafts and games for kids, and more.



Party in the Park, Birth-5 years

Wed, May 31, 10 am, Bronson Park

Calling all childcare providers, teachers, and parents! You and your preschool children will enjoy this very special story hour featuring:

- A book for each child
- Costumed characters
- Lots of wonderful stories
- Healthy snacks and juice

This is a FREE event! Bring a blanket to sit on. Portable toilets will be available at the park. Weather cancellations may apply. RSVP at kpl.gov/party by Friday, May 26.





Director's Note

As I have written here before, when I am out and about in the community, I am often asked about library services. It is always an opportunity to share what we offer and I am often able to introduce a new service. I had just such an opportunity this past week.

THE HUB

Over lunch with six others, one person mentioned they had used The Hub to digitize some family photos. Others were intrigued.

I explained that patrons can digitize photos and videos, produce a podcast and preserve a favorite LP, cassette or VHS tape in our digital lab. Staff are always there to help.

DIGITAL MATERIALS

Yes, ebooks and other digital materials can be checked out on your library card without visiting a library building. Adult, children, and teen ebooks are available through our website for a variety of devices. Millions of songs, many movies, emagazines, and eaudiobooks are also available.

HOT SPOTS

One of our newest services is Hotspots, a device to provide free internet access at home or on vacation. Cardholders can borrow a mobile Hotspot for three weeks that will provide internet access to smartphones, tablets, and other wireless enabled devices through a cellular network. Up to ten devices can connect at one time and provide unlimited internet service.

BOOK CLUB IN A BAG

Occasionally I can still surprise a book club member when I remind them we loan ten copies of the same book in an easy-to-carry bag along with a reading guide for book club discussions.

FRIENDS OF KPL BOOKSTORE

And you can even buy books at the library—that is, in the bookstore on the lower level of the Central Library run by the Friends of KPL. At their recent bag-of-books sale, 9,000 books were “recycled” through the community.

1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

This is one of my favorite services. I wish we had offered it when my kids were preschoolers. The goal is to share 1,000 books during the early childhood years to prepare children for kindergarten.

And of course, we offer the more traditional library services of circulating books and AV materials, answering reference questions and providing help finding materials, collecting and making available information about our community, along with a wide variety of programs for all ages.

This is just a small sample. Information about all of our services is available on our website or from any staff member. Come visit soon – online or at one of our five locations.

One Cannot Have Too Many Friends!



Please become a Friend of the Kalamazoo Public Library by sending in your membership dues today. Funds raised by the Friends help make KPL the extraordinary library it is. You can take pride in being part of this, and we'd love to have you as our Friend.

Join Today!

Please fill out the form below and mail with your check made payable to **Friends of KPL** and send to **315 S. Rose, Kalamazoo, MI 49007**.

Membership Levels

- ☐ Individual \$15
- ☐ Family \$25
- ☐ Supporter \$50
- ☐ Patron \$75
- ☐ Benefactor \$100
- ☐ Other Amount

\$ _____

Information

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Thank you for your support!

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